EXHIBIT LL

From: LYNNE FREEMAN < lynnef@gci.net>

Sent: October 23, 2015 9:22 PM

To: Michael Garner

Subject: Re: Quick check in, and I think I've found my title

Hi Mike -

Never worry about not responding. I get caught up in work and book and can't respond at times as well. In fact, I have work AND book stuff going on tonight.....and my guys are home tomorrow!

BUT, I absolutely could not go another moment without saying --- WHAAAT?! Julia Quinn, the "thinking woman's" romance novelist wrote a novel featuring a heroine rape scene of her romantic lead? OMG. OM double G.

At first, I thought you must be mistaken. You must have read a book by someone who stole her good name and attached it to some piece of trash.

But alas -- it isn't so.

I see that The Duke and I, does indeed have a rape scene. It was published in 2000. I'm shocked it was published at all. And if I had read this book, I would never have loved Julia Quinn. So oops! I had no idea.

In parting, do not, I repeat, do NOT read any of the authors I have recommended you check out..... unless you thoroughly preview what you're getting.

Anne Bishop, for example, is an award-winning writer of dark fantasy with a twist of romance. I love her writing (not necessarily her stories). Some of her novels are disturbing (Black Jewels series). I could not read those books today, but I admire her skill in creating unique worlds with interesting characters. Come to think of it, all of her series are a little twisted. Uh Oh. The Courtyard of the Others was good -- a recent series. But definitely twisted.

Ok, cross her off the list. We are talking paranormal romance. She isn't that.

The others I've mentioned, such as Sherilyn Kenyon and JR Ward, are not favorites in terms of writing or story. They are writers whose work I've read as research because they are so commercially successful. Same with Christine Feehan. Prolific series writers.

Okay. I had to rant about Ms. Quinn.

And thank you thank you thank you for the pep talk. Clearly, I need it:) More on this later.

Will respond to rest of email over weekend. Plot and Structure awaits. My head is still spinning about Julia.

---- Original Message -----

From:

"Michael Garner" < michael@michaelgarner.net>

To

"Lynne Freeman" <lynnef@gci.net>

Cc:

Sent:

Fri, 23 Oct 2015 15:38:46 -0600

Subject:

Re: Quick check in, and I think I've found my title

Hi Lynne,

Thanks for writing back so quickly. I'm sorry I sometimes go so long between replies.

I think you're right about the manic phase... I am definitely in it now. It's compounded by the fact that I'm spiritually tired of this project. That sounds vague, but what I mean is that I'm running on fumes when it comes to enthusiasm for the book. The good news is that the last 20K words or so should be mostly cut and paste from the first draft to the second. I have to bolt it on to the second draft because a few plot points got revealed on an earlier schedule, and right now, that's what's kicking my butt. But, I'm moving forward.

I've got a list of girly pen names, but I've put that on the back burner because I'm trying to conserve energy for the actual writing of the text. The problem is finding a name that doesn't already have a Facebook and twitter account, and that isn't already an Amazon author, and that has a dot com or a dot net web address still free. No small task. I'm going to go with a three part name. Something like "Courtney Scout Webber" or "Katy Jane Page" or something like that.

Next on my list. I hope you were kidding about would [somebody] want to read about "a teen who finds a magical amulet and unwittingly releases the Egyptian god of chaos"... Hell yes I think they would, and here's why:

1. Look at how many post-apocalypse and world-in-jeopardy stories are out right now, at least as a point of cultural focus. This may be confirmation- or some other kind of cognitive-bias on my part, but I do work at a community college, and I do hear a lot of these kids talking about how "zombies are their thing," and I've seen or heard about many, many world-in-peril stories on the shelves or in the theaters recently.

What I THINK is going on in the culture is that people are nervous as hell about the future, and there are so many signs pointing to big bad trouble on the way... I think this anxiety gets expressed in post-apocalypse and world-in-peril and disaster stories for a couple of reasons:

- A. Relief. As in, thank God the disaster is finally here so I can stop worrying about it and get on with the living of my life (such as it is when I'm chainsawing zombies all the livelong day).
- B. Meaningful test. As in, now that the disaster is here, I get to find out what I'm REALLY made of / if I'm worthy.
- 2. People like to belong and want to belong. They need to belong. To a group, to somebody, to a vision, an idea, a goal...

 They want to feel that they share in a purpose.
- 3. People have no real way of addressing the anxiety about the future that I mentioned in point 1, and the truth is that not many people will get to change the world, and if they do, it's going to take a tremendous amount of effort and time.

So what does this all add up to, and why am I saying it to you?

Because your book addresses all three of those points.

- 1. Your book shows the end of the world in two ways, (or it can). One, If you portray the Egyptian god of chaos as one seriously scary mo'-fo', as somebody who delights in depleting half of Cook Inlet's beluga population as a kind of aperitif... I mean if you really give us an entity that is capable of putting some serious hurt on the world... Then you've got a world-threatening crisis that this girl HAS to deal with (not for the least reason that she set it off). And two, if she doesn't deal with it, then ELLA'S world is destroyed. I keep coming back to this and I hope to God you're hearing it: Ella is a lovable character. And for that reason, people will CARE if her world is threatened. And by "her world," I mean the specific things and people she cares about.
- 2. Once again, Ella is lovable. You show her belonging to a group of friends, and you threaten that by Taylor's social machinations with Samantha, (not to mention Taylor's relationship to the dark father figure who we talked about that one night on the phone point is: Taylor is a multilayered threat to Ella because of her involvement with the dark powers). Also, you show Ella as the heiress to a power, and a circle of powerful women, but you hold that just out of the audience's reach because Ella hasn't been initiated or welcomed into that circle yet we know it exists because the Mom admits it, and we want Ella to belong, we just don't know how she's going to get there. To sum up this run-on-paragraph: You have created a character who CAN belong, who SHOULD belong, but for various reasons is not QUITE fitting in. And how may young adults do you think feel as if they don't quite fit in? I'll give you a hint: the number is between 99.9 and 100.0%. In other words, you've given us a character we not only love, but who reminds us of our own unfulfilled longings and desires. How hard do I have to work in my own life to get those unfulfilled longings met? Hard. And could I conceivably fail to achieve my goal? Hell yes. But not in fiction. Not with Ella. If I pick up your book, I KNOW you're going to give her what she wants and needs, and so, for the moments I spend reading your book, I get to feel as if MY desires had gotten fulfilled too.

3. Your book could address people's anxiety for the future because Ella is going to defeat the God of chaos, and she is going to get back into a circle of warmth with her friends, her family, and (bambi-eyed-blink) Roman. And in doing all that, she's going to change the world, both the external and the internal.

My God, Lynne, what young adult WOULDN'T want to read your book??? Snap out of it, kid. You've got an excellent idea here. :-)

Money. Series. Your list of recommend authors. Did I tell you I read a Julia Quinn book? The Duke and I. This is the one where the female protagonist rapes the male lead about 4/5th's of the way through the book. I looked it up, and according to the US DoJ's definition, "rape" is the right word. The male lead not only told her "no" when he was sober, he also told her "no" when he was drunk, and then when he passed out, she had sex with him anyway, and justified it to herself that it was for his own good, and that despite what he said, he actually DID want to go through with it. Honestly, there's still a part of me that's picking itself up off the floor from that one. If anybody wrote about a guy doing that? Holy crap. Mushroom cloud, baby. What freaked me out even more was that more than 2/3's of the reviews I read about that book on goodreads gave some version of "aw, so what?" or "I can understand why she did it." Honestly, I think I'm still processing it, because it tells me something about what readers want from their fiction, which as far as I can see is largely "selfish motives win unless it's somebody other than the protagonist."

That being said, her writing was pretty engaging, and I really did enjoy the first quarter of the book. (I got nitpicky with the whole 1814 thing and all these young men walking around with not a single word about Napoleon and the frigging world war England was fighting on the continent...)

I guess I realize now why I didn't tell you I read it. I didn't want you to know I'd had an unpleasant experience with her book...

But back to the point: She is obviously doing something right, and I would do well to study her. I'm reading a book about the Battle of Thermopylae right now (nice romantic stuff (sigh)), but as soon as I'm finished, I'm going to pick up one of the other authors you recommended. Thank you very much for giving me those names.

Series. You are right. I need to think of a way I can write one that will work for me. I have one idea that really stands out, but it's in a Steampunk universe, so I'm not sure how that would be received.

Okay, last couple of points.

You have a kindle, right? Let me know. Because if you do, I'm going to send you a quick little book that talks (among other things) about how internal resistance is the artist's real enemy, what it is, and how to fight it. I've been thinking about sending it to you for a while, but I didn't want to take away from your writing time by asking you to read it. However, since I see that you're doing that on your own :-), I don't feel bad now.

And finally, would it be helpful to you to get on a phone meeting with me and make some kind of flow chart for your plot? Would that kind of session be helpful? Even if I just listened to what you had to say / let you explain your plot to me? I got the overarching story and the backstory from our last phone call, but would it be helpful for you to sit down and explain to me how you're going to get from "page 1" to "the end" with this specific book? I'm pretty sure we can set up a google hangout session with not a lot of fuss, so I could see your computer screen, or you could see mine and I could take notes on flowcharting software... I don't know... SOMETHING. Anyway, let me know if you're interested in that because sometimes it really helps uncover what you don't know when you try to explain it to somebody.

Okay. That's as much procrastinating as I should do now.

I hope you know that all my pushing and prodding in this email comes from a friendly place, and that I believe in you and your project.

Mike

On Oct 23, 2015, at 10:30 AM, LYNNE FREEMAN < lynnef@gci.net> wrote:

Hi Mike -

I'm writing you back right away because:

- a) it gives me a few more minutes of not working on my ms or reading plot "how to" books;
- b) it gives something ELSE to think about because I am going crazy!!!!

Ha!

I think the sniveling and feeling discouraged is part of the process. You said no need to offer encouraging words, so I won't, but... everything I've ever read about writers describes us as manic depressives. Seriously. One moment we're riding high on the "Aha! This is great stuff!" and the next we're drowning in the "Oh my god, this is crap!"

I'm back in the crap stage. We'll get to that in a moment. I'm focusing on what you said about making money and a book a month.

You know that's garbage. The key to making money at this for commercial success is selling books. Volume. Readers. That isn't going to happen on a book that takes a month to write. The things people post!

I firmly believe that money is to be made on paranormal romance **series**. And that they can be done quickly once a formula is in place (maybe 3 a year?). Taking a tried and true formula from commercially successful authors and applying it to your own idea and getting a rocking book cover--can't hurt. The writing has to be decent and the story compelling or there will be no sales. No volume. No readers.

I will read anything by Julia Quinn, even though a regency romance ain't my thing, because her writing is great. The world agrees with me.

I have read Sherilyn Kenyon's DarkHunter series because it was interesting and different, and put a unique twist on the Greek gods thing. She has 5 or 6 different series going with 10 or more books in each and has made millions. And there's a formula I plan to use for my own series when the time comes....

I adore Anne Bishop. Probably one of my favorite writers. I'll read anything she writes. Twisted, weird, and unique. LOVE HER. She has maybe 4 or 5 series and I love them all. I'm amused by JR Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood series. Formula. Hugely commercially successful

I keep pointing these writers out in my emails (and there are so many others) because they are at the top of their game in selling numbers. And that's what this is all about if coin is the goal.

So take it easy on yourself and pat yourself on the back for sticking to your daily goal:)

As for me, I'm back in the crap.

and writing has not progressed as far as I would have liked. I have binged on Masterpiece Theater for 2 days and am now reading Plot and Structure -- hugely useful. I have to laugh because I found that book in true Lynne fashion. I was reading posts by other writers about best methods for plot and kept reading about LOCK, and how you need to by so and so's book.

I ended up at the book store later in the week and randomly grabbed 3 books on plot in the one minute I had before meeting a friend for lunch (out of the 15 or more on the shelf), intending to browse and return the ones I didn't want to keep. I had to laugh when the LOCK book (Plot and Structure by James Scott Bell) was the one I grabbed. It will be a lifesaver.

Dramatica a waste of my time in every way. I used it between MPT binges. Bummer:(

Bottom line for me: I'm just not satisfied with my plot and how it will play out -- yet. Would I want to read a book about a teen who finds a magical amulet and unwittingly releases the Egyptian god of chaos? Probably not. That just doesn't have the appeal I'm looking for. Maybe I'd be interested if the teen witch finds a magical amulet and accidentally opens the gates to the underworld.... Sigh.

Hope today is a better writing day for you. Don't feel compelled to write back unless you're spinning your wheels and procrastinating like me. I'm now going for a swim....

Lynne

---- Original Message -----

From:

"Michael Garner" < michael@michaelgarner.net>

To:

"Lynne Freeman" < lynnef@gci.net >

Cc:

Sent:

Wed, 21 Oct 2015 21:21:28 -0600

Subject:

Re: Quick check in, and I think I've found my title

Hi Lynne,

Sorry it's taken me 8 days to get back to. I've been using my free time to write, and while I had any kind of a line to the muse, I was trying to follow it...

Status is that I've got another 12K words since I last wrote to you. As of tonight, I'm at 86K words. I'm not sure when I'll be in the home stretch, but I feel I'm pretty close.



That being said, I'm so very glad you're finding your stride again with regard to *Masqued*. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help.

I've heard of Dramatica but haven't tried it. I'm always leery of that kind of thing because I don't like learning new software, because I get kind of obsessive about it once I start. Again, that's just a personal thing with me. How is it working for you? As I recall, I've heard good things about it.

Thanks for listening.

Mike

On Oct 13, 2015, at 8:59 PM, LYNNE FREEMAN < lynnef@gci.net > wrote:

No worries about getting back to me - and I'm sure you get it when my responses are delayed too. Work, kids, spouses -- all come first and not necessarily in that order:)

GLAD to hear you are through the rough patch. You're doing very well to discipline yourself in terms of a word count per day. That's a good way to get through it.

What I've been going through -- this crisis of confidence -- is mental quicksand. Manuscript written and a plot problem. It's been from hell but it's turning around. I think -- I'm almost scared to say it -- but I think I'm almost there. The movie in my head is back on screen. Yay me!

The exercises I'm doing for the plot feel a little like rubbing up against mental sandpaper (I'm clearly in to sand tonight. Must be the pyramids and all that!) Motivation. Plot. 3 acts. All still rickety when I'm writing them down.

I downloaded Dramatica Story Pro and I'm going to do it over the next few days and see where that lands me.

. BUT -- I will

have a whole 5 1/2 days with increased time for writing. I plan to have all of this hashed out (this being plot issues) and rolling into the re-write by the time they get back.

Long answer to your question. My head is now above water:)

---- Original Message -----

From:

"Michael Garner" < michael@michaelgarner.net>

To

"Lynne Freeman" < lynnef@gci.net >

Cc:

Sent:

Tue, 13 Oct 2015 20:19:06 -0600

Subject:

Re: Quick check in, and I think I've found my title

Hi Lynne,

I apologize for the delay in getting back to you, and for the brevity of this note. Work and kids are needing lots of my time, and I'm still trying to make my word count per day.

I'll think of a girly name and run it by you. Thanks!

I made it through that rough patch — thanks for your encouragement! I hit 75K words yesterday, so I'm nearer the home stretch.

I'll write more later, but I'm going to try to get some more done on the book tonight, so I'm going to sign off.

Where are you at with your book? I'm so happy to hear you're giving it a little bit of time amid all your other responsibilities. Just keep plinking at it!

Mike

On Oct 11, 2015, at 9:52 PM, LYNNE FREEMAN suppnef@gci.net> wrote:

Hi Mike -

MJ - I would definitely know it's a dude writing the book. Pick a girly name. Seriously!

Now. On the subject of your current ms:

Okay buddy, your self-talk is spot on. You will be okay. This project is good. HANG IN THERE!

I know exactly what you mean about stepping away for a few days and finding garbage staring back up at me when I open my document. It is the worst feeling. I am totally there -- in terms of plot---and agonizing. After reading your email, I'm just going to pick Option A and get down to business. And that's exactly what you need to do. Get down to business and push the doubts away.

You are an excellent writer. You know that. You've worked hard for this project, on this project, IN this project. It's good stuff. Now finish it up. I think this level of trepidation is perfectly normal at this stage. I've read about it. I've experienced it. The most important thing is to stay the course and don't let yourself stop.

And yes, when we get done with our respective manuscripts, let's have some fun and have a call about series ideas. If you are going to write adult paranormal romance, I have some books you should check out. I'd like to take one of those (they're all sexy and funny) and turn it into a YA series. No one is doing that. Yet. !!! Probably because no one wants to think about teen girls panting after a wereguy of some kind who is supposed to be her eternal soul mate. Hmmm. I may have to reconsider as that's not exactly a great role model thing for teens. Twilight about killed it. Yuck.

Keep the faith. And in the meantime, I will try to do the same :)

Lynne

---- Original Message -----

From:

"Michael Garner" < michael@michaelgarner.net >

To:

"Lynne Freeman"
<lynnef@gci.net>

Cc:

Sent:

Sun, 11 Oct 2015 12:50:44 - 0600

Subject:

Re: Quick check in, and I think

I've found my title

Hi Lynne,

Pen name I was thinking about is "M.J. Jensen." Do you think that's sufficiently feminine? Or should I go with an actual name?

No, it's not a problem if I got over 100K. I will for sure be paring it down during the final edit. I'm just fatigued on this project and want to get on with something different. I took 3 days off to work on a gaming project and that felt SO good.

I know you are right about series books. And your comments about listening to the inner voice strongly resonate with me. I know that writing a novel the way I'm doing it now is not going to help me achieve financial goals I'm envisioning for myself. I know this. I know I need to write a different kind of book and that it needs to be a series as you suggest. I think I got stuck a little bit like you did in terms of not wanting to let my dream project go. I always loved books that really got inside the characters' heads and show

them going through something adventurous and cool, and that's what I've tried to write. But — today anyway — what I've produced feels bloated, pretentious, and boring. What I

Thanks for listening.

Back to the trenches for me.

Mike

On Oct 9, 2015, at 9:08 AM, LYNNE FREEMAN <\ul>
\ulder \text{lynnef@gci.net} \text{ wrote:}

Part Deux

You're at 70k words which is great. Applause here. Is it a big deal if you go over 100k? Or will you plan to pare it down once you have your draft complete?

I do agree that you don't want to spend forever going over and over it for perfection. Get your draft, clean it up and get it out there. (I plan to follow this sage advice myself. Finally!).

I've said it before and I'll say it again -- I believe the key to serious money is writing a series. Imagine the fun of that....! Formula. Quick draft. Selfpublish. \$\$\$\$

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to fin d so m е su rpr ise S. Nu m be r tw o: ľm so rry sh е hu rt yo u. lt wa sn' t un til thi s е m ail be lo W th at I re ali ze d sh е ha d. An d ľm so rry for my fri en d.

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е int er ac tio ns yo ú ha d wit h yo ur m ot he r? Yo u m en tio ne d to m on се th at yo ur m ot he wa s "a ve ry dif fic ult m ot he r to ha ve an d yo u'v sai d se

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ľm int ru di ng а littl e. Bu t рΙ ea se kn ow th at do Ν O T ne ed or ex ре ct an an sw er: jus t as ke d th е m be ca us е it se ms th еу mi gh ťh el р yo u. (A 'nу wa у,

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ot of en er gу an d en th usi as m to ge th е е m ail s fro m yo u, an d to wri te th е m to yo u. So se rio usl y: th an ks. Mi ke 0

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